

PELOSI's team to help freshman communications directors learn the ropes of Capitol Hill when I was assistant to the Speaker. She then took on a new challenge and dual role when I became ranking member of the House Budget Committee. From budget battles to the not-so-Super Committee, she was always up to the task. She took a leave of absence to help in my 2016 campaign for the Senate and then moved across the Capitol to run the communications operation in my Senate office. She has approached all of it with intelligence, sharp instincts, sound judgment, and a sense of humor.

Bridgett has built a reputation for being hard-charging and forthright, and reporters respect her responsiveness and honesty. She has coordinated closely with all aspects of my team, helping to drive both policy work and State outreach efforts, as well as with countless offices in both the House and the Senate. She has always provided me with honest and thoughtful advice and counsel. She has an uncanny instinct for getting to the heart of any issue.

As Bridgett seeks new challenges outside our office, I know she will continue to grow in her professional career. It stems from a love of politics that she got from her father and an ethos of hard work from her mother. I deeply appreciate her many years of dedicated service to the people of Maryland and the Congress. Our entire team will miss her, but we all extend our warmest wishes as she takes on new adventures.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TIM McALLISTER

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Tim McAllister, a 96-year-old veteran who served in World War II. Tim is currently the oldest veteran living in Judith Basin County.

Tim is a humble man who speaks quietly about his military service. In fact, he spends more time reflecting on the service of his two brothers, both of whom were soldiers in the D-Day invasion at Normandy. Tim's military service took him to the South Pacific, where he was engaged in the liberation of the Philippines with the American Division in the region of Cebu City.

Tim's impact on the community is pronounced. This past November, Tim wasn't able to attend the Veterans Day celebration at the local elementary school, and his presence was missed. Because of his absence, students in first and second grade at the school made a massive card to thank him for his service and delivered it to his home. This small act of kindness was very meaningful to Tim.

Tim's roots in Montana run strong and deep. His father rode the range with the legendary Charlie M. Russell. Tim carried on those western values

from his father and developed a love for ranching and horses. Tim truly understands and loves the Montana way of life.

I am proud of Tim for his service to our country and his tremendous impact on his community. I am confident his legacy of service will live on for generations to come, and I am honored to recognize him today.●

TRIBUTE TO CALVIN BAKER

• Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. President, in April of 1981, President George H.W. Bush said "think about every problem, every challenge, we face. The solution to each starts with education." These words were true then, and they are just as true today. Education is the bedrock of our society, and it allows our country to advance.

It is difficult to think of someone who exemplifies President Bush's words more than Vail School District Superintendent Calvin Baker. I have been privileged to get to know Cal and his wife Nancy over the last many years. I also live in Vail School District—VSD—so I have seen the impact he has made in our community firsthand.

Cal moved back to Arizona in 1987 to become the principal of the only school in the Vail School District, serving 500 students. He was appointed as the superintendent of the district in 1988 and has been at the helm ever since. During his nearly 33 years of service to students and families in our community, Cal led the growth to now 22 schools serving over 14,000 students. The growth was not by accident. Families want to move to VSD so their kids can experience the world-class educational experience thanks to Cal's extraordinary leadership and success.

As with any organization, leadership matters, and for effective leadership, character matters. Calvin Baker sets the example of integrity, selfless service, and humility for all to follow. He is truly a good man.

In his tenure, Cal built an impressive team of educators and support staff and created a culture of innovation, parent involvement, and dedication to students. Cal's vision for success was based on the principle that education is a community effort. He has been the glue that kept our growing and diverse community together united with a common goal of educational excellence. In a recent letter Cal sent to parents in his district, he said, "I encourage each of you to invest deeply in your child's education and our local schools. It is that investment that is the 'secret sauce' of Vail's success."

Calvin Baker is a trailblazer on innovation in education for so many other districts in the State and country to follow. Empire High School was the first school in the United States to eliminate textbooks in favor of computers. He pioneered the Beyond Textbooks program that combines Vail's successful instructional methodology

with an online delivery system. Cal didn't just want Vail students to benefit from this effective approach. Now, 115 school districts across Arizona and six other States use this program, some of which have become top performing districts in their States.

Baker's creative and visionary leadership didn't stop there. When enrollment in the district surpassed capacity, he developed a year-round track system to ensure educational standards were high while new infrastructure was planned and built. Under his leadership, Vail schools are consistently labeled as "A+" by the Arizona Department of Education.

Calvin Baker's legacy is immense and immeasurable. It will continue on with the thousands of children in a generation who received an amazing education in Vail School District under his leadership, propelling them on a path of opportunity for their futures. Cal is the longest serving superintendent of any school district in Arizona and has left an indelible mark on education for Arizona and the country. Appropriately, Pima County passed a resolution naming December 20 as Calvin Baker Appreciation Day, an honor in which Cal is more than deserving.

Last year, Cal confronted another challenge when he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. His example of faith, grit, and courage as he faced the diagnosis and treatment continues to be an inspiration to us all.

I want to personally thank Cal for his service and wish him, Nancy, and their whole family all the best in his much-deserved retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2881. An act to require the President to develop a strategy to ensure the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure in the United States and to assist allies and strategic partners in maximizing the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems, infrastructure, and software, and for other purposes.